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The St. Francois County Commission met in regular session earlier this week and during the meeting they appointed a coordinator for the Bone Hole project, a planned project to rejuvenate the rural river access.

St. Francois County Presiding Commissioner Harold Gallaher said they have found a qualified person who they think would like to do it. "We would like to appoint Dr. David Cramp as the St. Francois County agent for the Bone Hole Project," said Gallaher.

Associate Commissioner Gay Wilkinson added that he can't think of anybody better to fill that role and represent St. Francois County. "David has been interested and remains interested," said Wilkinson. "I think it will be in our best interest to do this."

Associate Commissioner Patrick Mullins said back in 2013, he and Dr. Cramp started working with Doe Run Company, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Forest Service.

"This stemmed from the monies from the settlement of the Asarco projects down south," said Mullins. "DNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife are actually the overseers of all these federal monies. Dr. Cramp's original vision was to have the Bone Hole Project, which encompasses about 34 acres of ground ... Originally the idea was for a special needs park, since then we have identified needs and it's not really going to fit into the plan."

Mullins said the county has already hired a company called SWT out of St. Louis and they have already developed a master plan. They partnered with the Doe Run Company in the amount of \$5,000, where they each pay half. They have received their check of \$2,500 and have deposited it with the treasurer.

"We have a master plan and they have it laid out. What we need to do now is bring Dr. Cramp on for an acting agent and get this ball rolling," said Mullins. "We are going to develop it into a county park and I have seen the master plan. It is a beautiful area. There is a walking trail that leads over to the bluff and the tunnel which is a man-made tunnel will have a bat friendly gate."

"It's just going to be a very nice area and the glade is one of three glades in the state of Missouri. It is very rare and we want to protect those natural resources. I think it will be in the best interest of St. Francois County to bring Dr. Cramp on board and he has interest in the project."

Gallaher said Cramp is very up-to-date on the project and wants to see it through. It was a unanimous vote to appoint Cramp as the coordinator for the project.

Also during the meeting, Mullins gave an update to the commission on the \$73,000 courthouse grant that he applied for last year.

"St. Francois County was not selected," said Mullins. "I talked to a gentlemen by the name of Mark Miles. He is the director of the Department of Natural Resources. He basically told me that we were not selected because of the needs and that we did do an excellent job with preparing the grant, but the courthouses that won favor with the Department of Natural Resources are made out of sandstone."

"Our courthouse is made out of a Bedford stone, so they took priority over St. Francois County. He did encourage me to apply for (the next round of funding) and I will do that, but I am going to bring on board a stone conservator and try to dress this grant application up, if there is a next time."

The commission also noted a safety meeting was held recently, and that they will address the Board of Equalization members at a future meeting.

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